



idahoconservation.org

Idaho Conservation League

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Fact Sheet: **TAKE A STAND FOR PUBLIC LANDS**

Issue

Nearly two years ago, the Idaho Legislature created a Federal Lands Interim Committee to figure out a way for the state to take over public lands. This scheme was cooked up by attorneys and special interests outside of Idaho, which could result in the privatization of millions of acres of lands important for hunting, fishing and recreation.

Background

The federal government manages 33 million acres in Idaho under laws that ensure public involvement, protect water quality, provide a sustainable flow of timber, ensure public access and protect the health of fish and wildlife populations.

Meanwhile, Idaho's primary land manager, the Idaho Department of Lands, manages 2.5 million acres with the primary focus of maximizing revenue over the long term for the benefit of Idaho schools and public buildings. There are very few state laws to protect the public interests or the environment. Idaho can also sell its land to private entities.

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HIKING ON PARKER
RIDGE, SELKIRK
MOUNTAINS. PHOTO
BY BRAD SMITH



What You Can Do

Attend a public hearing on the public lands takeover proposal. North Idaho hearings are scheduled for:

- **9 am Thursday, Sept. 11**, Chamber of Commerce, **Kamiah**
- **6:30 pm Thursday, Sept. 11**, Elks Lodge, **St. Maries**
- **Noon, Friday, Sept. 12**, Sandpoint Events Center, **Sandpoint**

Please tell the committee in your own **words why you value your public lands**. For instance, do you like to hike, fish, hunt, ski or mountain bike in the National Forest? Do you value clean water and wildlife?

If the state were to take over federal lands, it would:

- **Threaten Idaho's public land heritage**. These are the places where Idaho families hunt, fish and recreate. They should not be turned over to the state to maximize profit.
- **Outstrip the capacity of the state to provide services** that we've come to expect (such as campgrounds, trails, boat ramps, fire fighting and wildlife protection).
- **Undermine the effectiveness of Idaho's collaborative land management efforts**. Today, at least seven efforts are underway across the state to promote collaborative solutions for federal land managers.

For More Information

Visit our online action form at www.idahoconservation.org/issues/take-action/protect-our-public-lands

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